

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/582,874
Response dated April 21, 2005
Reply to OA of February 2, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-17 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 7-8 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Mittel et al. (previously applied) in view of U.S. Patent 4,727,331 to Hegeler (hereinafter “Hegeler”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in the Preliminary Amendment filed December 2, 2004, Mittel et al. fails to disclose that “a frequency of the drive signal varies within a range including a resonance frequency of the vibrator in the form of sawtooth waves, the sawtooth waves comprising a portion inclined with respect to the time base and a portion perpendicular to the time base.”

The Examiner has admitted that Mittel et al. “did not explicitly disclose” this feature, but has cited Hegeler for disclosing a frequency of a vibrator in the form of sawtooth waves.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Hegeler discloses a warning tone signal generator which generates pulses of constant pulse frequency but varying duty cycle. Hegeler also discloses converting square wave pulses to sawtooth-shaped pulses.

This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the frequency varies in the form of sawtooth waves, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10-11. Fig. 5(a) in the instant application shows how frequency varies with time (sawtooth waveforms, in this case). Both Mittel et al. and

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Hegeler teach waveforms of amplitude which varies with time, not how frequency varies with time.

As noted above, Hegeler teaches a constant pulse frequency.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Mittel et al. in view of Hegeler, and further in view of Kagan (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kagan discloses a personal paging device having a call signal receiver which generates when activated a train of regularly spaced electrical pulses controlling an electric vibrator. The vibrator comprises an electric motor which receives the pulse train and periodically accelerates a cyclicly mounted mass to produce, as a result of the reaction forces developed, tactually sensible reaction vibrations in the device. In a primary embodiment the mass is eccentrically mounted so as to additional produce tactually sensible variations at frequencies which are distinguishable from the said reaction vibrations.

Kagan, like the other cited references, fails to teach, mention or suggest a frequency which varies over time in the form of sawtooth waves, as recited in claim 1, from which claims 4-6 depend.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Mittel et al. in view of Ditthardt (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Ditthardt, like the other cited references, fails to teach, mention or suggest the limitations of claim 1, from which claim 7 depends.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Mittel et al. in view of Hegeler and further in view of Saiki et al. (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Saiki et al., like the other cited references, fails to teach, mention or suggest the limitations of claims 1 and 11, from which these claims respectively depend.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-6 and 9-17, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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